



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

7 ARRESTED BY ICE ON SEXUAL TRAFFICKING CHARGES

TAMPA— U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez and Special Agent-in-Charge Frank Figueroa, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced today the arrests of seven individuals for conspiracy to transport individuals for sexual activity. An additional 43 individuals were administratively arrested for being illegal aliens. The arrests were made late Saturday afternoon. Search warrants were executed simultaneously in Orange, Polk and Hillsborough counties. More than \$32,000 in cash was seized, as well as jewelry and two luxury vehicles, a 2000 Jaguar and a 2003 Mercedes Benz.

Those arrested on the sexual trafficking charges made their first appearances in federal court today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas B. McCoun III. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. Four of the 43 individuals arrested administratively are being detained, two because of aggravated felony convictions and two for re-entering the country after deportation. Both require mandatory detention. The other 39 individuals were released and given notices to appear before an immigration judge. The following individuals, who were arrested Saturday, are charged with conspiracy to transport individuals for sexual activity. The first four defendants listed below are being detained without bond. The last three are scheduled for a bond hearing on Wednesday before Magistrate Judge McCoun.

FRANCISCO MARIANO-CEPEDA, 43, of Kissimmee, FL

MARITZA TROCHEZ, 28 (female), of Kissimmee, FL

JOSE RODRIGUEZ, 56, of Plant City, FL

MARIO CASTILLO, 55, of Auburndale, FL

CRUSITA CABRERA DE FALERO, 44 (female), of Kissimmee, FL

WESILANDY CEBALLOS, 35, of Orlando, FL

RUDI CABRERA, 36, of Orlando, FL

According to the indictment, the conspiracy to transport individuals for sexual activity dates back to Jan. 2000. The defendants allegedly obtained properties in Polk, Orange and Hillsborough counties to operate and manage prostitution activities. Mr. Perez stated, "Trafficking individuals for sexual activity is a despicable crime and calls for aggressive law enforcement action. This office will work closely with other law enforcement agencies to vigorously pursue criminal charges against those engaged in this illicit conduct."

This organization is alleged to have exploited the immigration system by transporting and victimizing foreign-born women for prostitution across multiple counties in Central Florida. ICE's enforcement action focused on eradicating what are believed to be brothels and prosecuting their operators who allegedly promoted prostitution and other criminal acts. "ICE will continue to work with our state and local law enforcement partners to ensure that local communities are not plagued by criminal activity perpetrated by individuals residing in the U.S. illegally," said Frank Figueroa.

This investigation is being conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Orange County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office assisted in executing the search warrants and making the arrests.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until proven guilty.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibility for a number of key homeland security priorities.